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TRENDS

ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN RAILROADS

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For Immediate Release

ANOTHER RAIL PIGGYBACK RECORD

WASHINGTON, January 17, 1984 -- For the second consecutive year, major U.S. railroads established a record for piggyback traffic, the Association of American Railroads reported today.

Piggyback carloadings in 1983 totaled 2,338,527, up 21.8 percent from the previous year. The number of trailers and containers carried totaled 4,078,454, a 20.1 percent gain over 1982, also a new high.

TOFC/COFC loadings accounted for 12.4 percent of total rail carloadings in 1983 and remained second only to coal -- the traditional leader -- as a source of railroad traffic.

Piggyback traffic for the holiday week ended December 31 totaled 30,966 cars, 11.1 percent above the corresponding week of 1982, and 58,463 trailers and containers, 18.6 percent higher than 1982.

The AAR also reported that total freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the New Year's holiday week ended January 7 totaled 13.6 billion ton-miles, 3.2 percent below the corresponding non-holiday week of 1983.

Total carloadings on major railroads for the January 7 week were 302,468, down 4.0 percent from the comparable week of 1983, but 29.8 percent higher than the preceding Christmas week. Compared with last year, loadings were down 2.3 percent in the East, 8.3 percent in the South, and 2.4 percent in the West.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 1/7/84:

	Loadings in Week ended January 7, 1984		Change from Corresponding Week 1983			Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	28,770	I	2,163	8.1	I	8,396	41.2
Other farm products	4,047	D	122	2.9	I	1,252	43.2
Metallic ores	9,486	D	969	9.3	I	137	1.5
Coal	82,332	D	11,559	12.3	I	26,070	46.3
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	6,204	D	356	5.4	I	1,889	43.8
Nonmetallic minerals	9,295	I	397	4.5	I	918	11.0
Grain mill products	10,051	D	1,757	14.9	I	1,837	22.4
Food and kindred products	9,158	D	2,972	24.5	I	1,821	24.8
Primary forest products	11,868	D	1,560	11.6	I	4,695	65.5
Lumber and wood products except furniture	5,167	D	287	5.3	I	717	16.1
Pulp, paper and allied products	12,708	D	1,751	12.1	I	2,412	23.4
Chemicals and allied products	21,032	D	44	0.2	I	1,002	5.0
Petroleum products	4,066	D	695	14.6	I	408	11.2
Stone, clay and glass products	7,960	D	527	6.2	I	1,986	33.2
Coke	4,432	I	231	5.5	I	226	5.4
Metals and products	7,246	I	785	12.1	D	399	5.2
Motor vehicles and equipment	13,379	I	2,322	21.0	I	5,744	75.2
Waste and scrap materials	6,694	I	661	11.0	I	1,823	37.4
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	7,573	I	1,612	27.0	I	1,506	24.8
All other carloads	40,720	I	2,669	7.0	I	6,941	20.5
LCL traffic	180	D	793	81.5	I	54	42.9
Total Cars Loaded	302,468	D	12,552	4.0	I	69,435	29.8
Corresponding week of 1983	315,020						

	1984	1983	% Change
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):			
Week ended January 7	13.6	14.1	D 3.2

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